

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Maryland	
COUNTY: Cecil	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME			
COMMON "Bohemia Farm"			
AND OR HISTORIC: "Bohemia" or "Milligan Hall"			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: East side of US Route 213, 1 mile south of Bohemia River			
CITY OR TOWN: Earleville			
STATE Maryland		CODE 24	COUNTY: Cecil
3. CLASSIFICATION			
CATEGORY (Check One)		OWNERSHIP	STATUS
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object		<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)		Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Park		<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religious		<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific			
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> Museum			
4. OWNER OF PROPERTY			
OWNER'S NAME: W. Harrison Mechling			
STREET AND NUMBER: "Bohemia Farm"			
CITY OR TOWN: Earleville		STATE: Maryland	CODE: 24
5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION			
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: Cecil County Courthouse			
STREET AND NUMBER: Main Street			
CITY OR TOWN: Elkton		STATE: Maryland	CODE: 24
6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS			
TITLE OF SURVEY: Maryland Register of Historic Sites and Landmarks			
DATE OF SURVEY: 1970 <input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local			
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Maryland Historical Trust			
STREET AND NUMBER: 2525 Riva Road			
CITY OR TOWN: Annapolis		STATE: Maryland	CODE: 24

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Maryland  
COUNTY: Cecil  
ENTRY NUMBER  
DATE

[see continuation sheet]

## 7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Bohemia house is reputed to be the most fully developed Georgian-style house existing on the Eastern Shore of Maryland. The elaborate decorative plasterwork of the Rococo style and the full "Chinese Chippendale" staircase are important to the evolution of the Georgian-style homes in Maryland.

"Bohemia Farm" is located on the east side of U. S. Route 213, one mile south of the Bohemia River. It is three miles north of Cecilton, Maryland.

The land facade (south) of "Bohemia Farm" is five bays long, with a central pavilion having a door, two steps above ground level, and a semicircular architrave over the second-story center window. Both the door and center window are flanked by narrow windows suggesting the Palladian manner. The second-story center window breaks into the pediment; and an oeil-de-boeuf window with four keystones and molded trim is located in the center of the pediment. The two wall areas flanking the central pavilion have two windows at each floor level. The facade is laid in all-header bond above a chamfered water table. A four-course belt extends across the facade, connected at the far ends to plain, brick, pilaster-like strips at each corner, extending from water table to cornice. The lintels of the first story and those in the central pavilion second story have flat arches with double, brick, superimposed keystones. The parts of the lintels flanking the unusual keystones have a light coat of scored, white stucco.

Two large brick chimneys pierce the roof where the hipped sides meet a central ridge. A simple, molded, box cornice extends across each side.

Bohemia's water facade (north) presents a different appearance, with the central pavilion wider, accomodating three center windows, leaving only one window to each side beside the pavilion. The walls are laid in Flemish bond with uniform pattern glazed-headers, and there are segmental arches above all the windows and the door, except the center window, at the second-story level, which is similar to the one on the south facade. The tiers of panes in each window on the north side are four "lights" wide, while a tier of each window on the south is three "lights" wide; consequently, a pronounced horizontal effect is achieved. Similar to other Georgian-style buildings, the windows on the second story are one tier of panes less in height than those on the ground floor.

On the east side of the house is a frame, nineteenth-century, gambrel-roof wing addition which was remodeled in the 1930's. On the west side are the remnants of a curved wall, possibly the passage to a former dependency. If the curved wall was

[see continuation sheet]

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(Number all entries)

Bohemia

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS, continued

Historic American Buildings Survey

1969                      federal    x

Library of Congress  
Washington, D. C.

code    11

7. DESCRIPTION, continued

original, in the style of Rosewell or Mt. Airy, both in Virginia, it is the only such plan to have come to light on the Eastern Shore of Maryland.

Bohemia is best known for its interior plan and trim. The floor plan consists of a rectangular stair hall with a large rectangular living room behind. In each corner of the building is a smaller room. Cliveden near Philadelphia has a similar floor plan.

The "Chinese Chippendale" staircase ascends in two flights to the second-story hall, the latter little more than a balcony, from which three chamber doors open. Each section of the staircase is a different variation of the Chinese-style theme. There are additional Chinese fret details on the step-ends and along the fascia of the balcony and staircase. It is supported from the wall and balcony only. An applied half-rail with pilasters matching the newel posts ascends on the interior staircase wall.

A classic, plaster cornice composed of a series of flutes and urns, with egg and dart molding above, decorates the first-story hall. Its ceiling is divided into panels by plaster bands. The second-story hall has plaster swags above each of the three chamber doors. A baroque cornice with cove molding, egg and dart molding, and modillions and rosettes, may be seen to its best advantage from the first-story hall. The Rococo plasterwork ceiling is also at its best from that vantage point. A "phoenix bird" holds the lantern in position in the central design.

The living room with its recessed-panel dado has a chimney-breast over the fireplace composed of a heavily decorated

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Bohemia

7. Description, continued

mantelpiece; a Baroque plaster panel and a classic cornice beneath which is a Doric frieze. The mantel is composed of Ionic pilasters beside garland-like fretwork, a series of fretwork in the frieze and a mantel shelf which supports a broken pediment with undulating fascia of alternating flutes. The overmantel panel is plain except for the single Baroque, bolection, plaster molding. The room cornice consists of a series of modillion-like blocks with gutae and rosettes between them and a "greek key" mold.

The southwest room also has decorative plasterwork. It is called "the music room" because of the musical instruments represented in plaster as the motif for the central panel of each wall. The mantel is similar to that of the living room, added to which are scrolled consoles at the base of the fireplace trim, similar to comparable trim at Whitehall, Anne Arundel County, Maryland. On the opposite side of the hall is the dining room in the southeast corner of the building. A plain-design paneled overmantel, window seats, and a built-in china cabinet adorn this room.

With the exception of the raised panel corner chimney-breast and window seats, the northwest room is very plain. Due to the size of the living room on the north side of the building, its two flanking rooms are small. The northeast room has a unique groined vault ceiling.

The room arrangement on the second story is almost identical to that on the first. With the exception of the hall, the rooms are finished in very plain design.

The largest Burr Oak tree existing in Maryland is located in the north yard at Bohemia. It measures 14' 11" in circumference at 4 1/2' above ground level, is 144' high, and has a 118' crown spread (1971).

An area of 130.2 acres is designated to the National Register as a protection for Bohemia. The north facade of the house overlooks the shore of the Little Bohemia Creek. The southern boundary of the area is laid beyond the southernmost curve of the lane into the house.

[2 of 3 continuation sheets]

## 8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

☐ Pre-Columbian☐ 16th Century☒ 18th Century☐ 20th Century☐ 15th Century☐ 17th Century☒ 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

c. mid-18th century

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

☐ Aboriginal☐ Education☒ Political☐ Urban Planning☐ Prehistoric☐ Engineering☐ Religion/Phi-☐ Other (Specify)☐ Historic☐ Industry

osophy

☐ Agriculture☐ Invention☐ Science☒ Architecture☒ Landscape☐ Sculpture☐ Art

Architecture

☐ Social/Human-☐ Commerce☐ Literature

itarian

☐ Communications☐ Military☐ Theater☐ Conservation☐ Music☐ Transportation

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Bohemia is important historically as the "part time" home of its former owner, Louis McLane, a prominent political influence as a Cabinet member during the administration of President Andrew Jackson. McLane was the second president of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company from 1837 to 1847, and president of the Morris Canal and Banking Company of New York.

On June 15, 1751, George Milligan, "merchant of Chestertown," purchased 240 acres of "MacGregory's Delight" from his father-in-law, John Baldwin, "Gentleman of Cecil County." Baldwin had purchased it from the MacGregory heirs in 1740. The dates 1743-1745 have been assigned to the construction of the house, but the interiors must not have been executed until the mid-1750's when the plaster ornamentation and Chinese motif became popular.

George Milligan was born in Scotland in 1720 and became a merchant. He was appointed Deputy Commissary and Sheriff of Cecil County in 1757. Upon his death in 1784, he left "my dwelling plantation, sometimes called 'Milligan Hall' " to his son Robert.

Robert Milligan was educated at Inns of Court and was a lawyer, but little more is known of him. His son, George Milligan, inherited the plantation and held it until he fell into debt, at which time it was purchased by his sister Catherine and her husband, Louis McLane.

Louis McLane, born in 1786, was the most prominent owner of Bohemia. His place in American history derives from his tenure in Andrew Jackson's Cabinet. As Secretary of the Treasury from 1831 to 1833, and as Secretary of State from 1833 to 1834, McLane clashed with Jackson concerning the Second Bank of the United States. When Jackson had the government's deposits withdrawn from the Bank, McLane resigned. In 1837, he became the second president of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company, spending much of his time in that office trying to finance the westward construction of the railroad. While in London on such a mission in the mid-1840's,

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Bohemia

8. SIGNIFICANCE, continued

McLane acted as a negotiator for the United States in the dispute over the location of the western Canadian boundary. After his retirement from the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company in 1847, McLane held no public office except for his tenure at the Maryland Constitutional Convention of 1850.

In 1860, the estate was divided and the house and the land adjoining it were purchased by William Knight, whose son of the same name was a member of the Maryland Senate in 1874 and a member of the House of Delegates in 1877.

9. BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES, continued

Dictionary of American Biography. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1933, XII, 113-115.

Enoch Pratt Free Library, Baltimore, Maryland. Maryland Room, Vertical File.

Forman, Henry Chandlee. Early Manor and Plantation Houses of Maryland. Easton, Maryland: the author, 1934.

Maryland House and Garden Pilgrimage. Catalogue, Twelfth Annual Pilgrimage. Baltimore: Maryland House and Garden Pilgrimage, 1949.

Pratt, Richard. A Treasury of Early American Homes. New York: McGraw Hill, 1949.

Scharf, J. Thomas. History of Delaware. Philadelphia: L. J. Richards, 1888.

Sellers, Charles C. Portraits and Miniatures by Charles Wilson Peale. Philadelphia: American Philosophical Society, 1952.

Works Progress Administration. Maryland A Guide to the Old Line State. New York: Oxford Press, 1940.

# MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Historical Dictionary of the American Congress 1774-1961.  
Washington: Government Printing Office, 1961.

Cecil County Land Records. Cecil County Courthouse. Elkton,  
Maryland.

Cecil County Probate Records. Cecil County Courthouse. Elk-  
ton, Maryland.

[see continuation sheet]

## 10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES			
CORNER	LATITUDE				LONGITUDE			
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds		Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	
NW	39°	27'	15"	75°	51'	53"		
NE	39°	27'	15"	75°	51'	32"		
SE	39°	26'	46"	75°	51'	32"		
SW	39°	26'	46"	75°	51'	53"		

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 130.2 acres

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

## 11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:  
Michael Bourne, Field Surveyor

ORGANIZATION  
Maryland Historical Trust

DATE  
Aug. 15, 1972

STREET AND NUMBER:  
2525 Riva Road

CITY OR TOWN:  
Annapolis

STATE  
Maryland 21401

CODE  
24

## 12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the Na-  
tional Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law  
89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion  
in the National Register and certify that it has been  
evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set  
forth by the National Park Service. The recommended  
level of significance of this nomination is:

National ☒ State ☐ Local ☐

Name Orlando Ridout IV

Title State Liaison Officer for  
Maryland

Date

I hereby certify that this property is included in the  
National Register.

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date

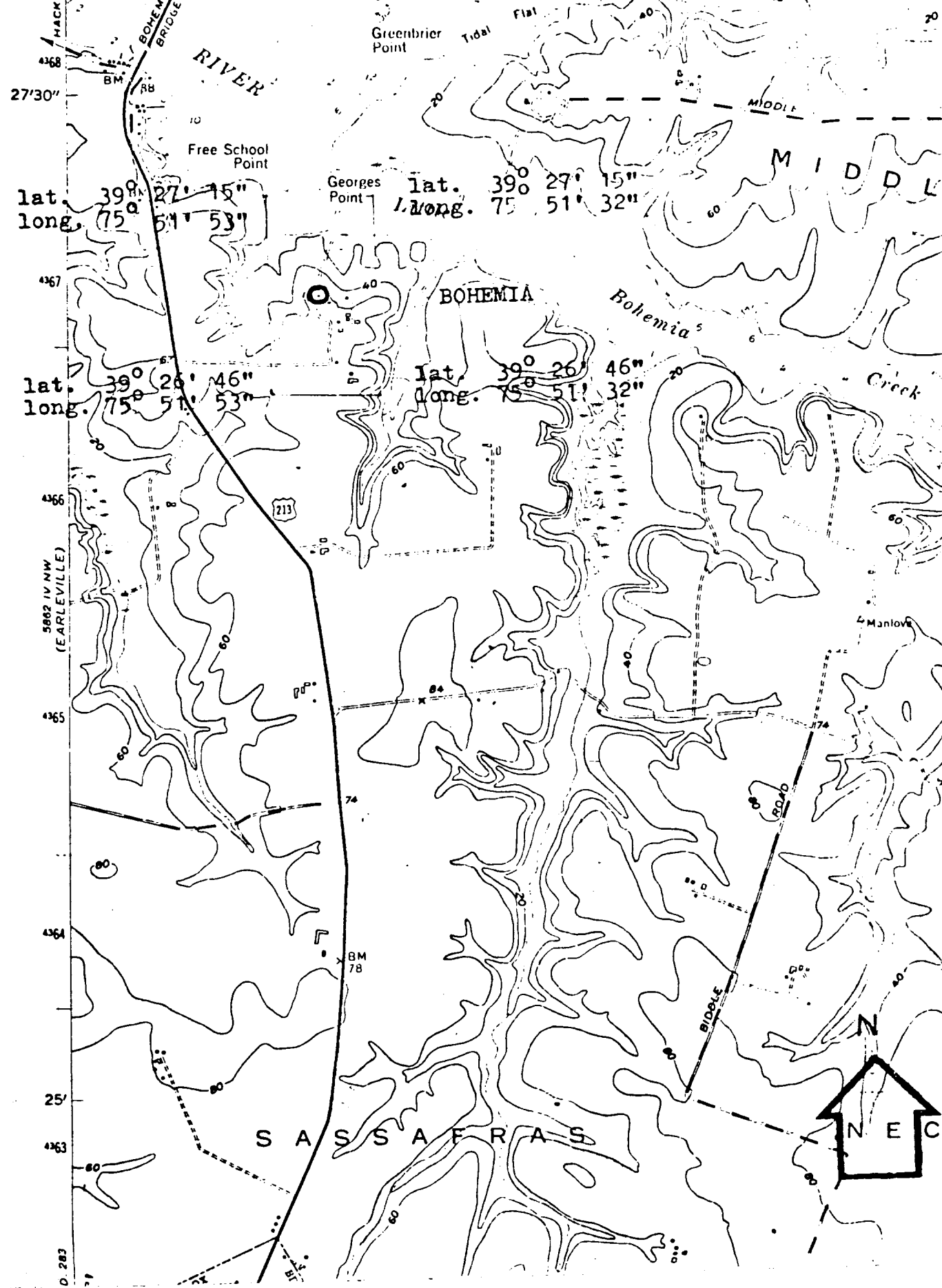
ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register


Date

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

CECILTON QUADRANGLE  
USGS 7.5 minute map (Maryland)  
scale: 1: 24,000  
1958





1. STATE <b>Maryland</b> COUNTY <b>Cecil County</b> TOWN <b>Cecilton</b> VICINITY STREET NO. <b>North of Cecilton</b>  ORIGINAL OWNER ORIGINAL USE <b>Dwelling</b> PRESENT OWNER <b>Mr. &amp; Mrs. Harrison</b> PRESENT USE <b>Dwelling</b> <b>Mechling</b> WALL CONSTRUCTION <b>Brick</b> NO. OF STORIES <b>2</b>	HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY INVENTORY <b>CE - 32</b>  2. NAME <b>Bohemia</b>  DATE OR PERIOD <b>1745</b> STYLE <b>Georgian</b> ARCHITECT BUILDER  3. FOR LIBRARY OF CONGRESS USE
4. NOTABLE FEATURES, HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE AND DESCRIPTION <span style="float: right;">OPEN TO PUBLIC <u>NO</u></span>	
<p>Bohemia is a brick mansion in the Georgian Manor. It is five bays long, two bays deep, and is two stories high with a hip roof.</p> <p>On the landside facade there is a pedimented pavillion containing a simple panelled front door flanked by small windows; a Palladian composite on the second floor and a bull's eye window in the pediment. The brick bond is all "headers" and four brick insets, or panels, containing two windows each, compose the length of the building - each side of the pavillion divided between the first and second floor levels by a five-brick band. This is a unique design. What appears to be trim is actually the face of the building.</p> <p>The door and windows at the first floor level, and the central Palladian composition at the second floor level, have white glazed gauged lintels with large brick keystones.</p> <p>The Bohemia River facade is of Flemish bond with glazed headers. This facade has a broad, pedimented pavillion</p> <p>(continued on page 2)</p>	
5. PHYSICAL CONDITION OF STRUCTURE    Endangered <b>No</b> Interior <b>Good</b> Exterior <b>Good</b>	
6. LOCATION MAP (Plan Optional)    8. PUBLISHED SOURCES (Author, Title, Pages) INTERVIEWS, RECORDS, PHOTOS, ETC.  <p style="text-align: center;">See page 2</p>	7. PHOTOGRAPH  9. NAME, ADDRESS AND TITLE OF RECORDER  <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Michael O. Bourne</b>  <b>Maryland Historical Trust</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;">DATE OF RECORD    <b>January 31, 1968</b></p>

CE - 32  
Bohemia  
Georgian

Page 2

containing central door and two larger windows, a round-headed central window flanked by large windows, and a bull's eye window in the brick pediment.

The interior is decorated with plaster garlands and cornices. The house is noted for its Chinese Chippendale-style stairway.

Benjamin Franklin was a frequent visitor to Bohemia.

Item 8. Published Sources

Richard Pratt

Treasury of Early American Houses

Henry Chandlee Forman .

Early Manor and Plantation Houses of Maryland  
1934, page 239

<p>1. STATE <u>Maryland</u> COUNTY <u>Cecil</u> TOWN <u>Cecilton</u> STREET NO. _____</p> <p>ORIGINAL OWNER -----</p> <p>ORIGINAL USE <u>Dwelling</u></p> <p>PRESENT OWNER <u>Harrison Meckling</u></p> <p>PRESENT USE <u>Dwelling</u></p> <p>WALL CONSTRUCTION <u>Flemish Bond Brick</u></p> <p>NO. OF STORIES <u>2</u> with <u>hipped</u> roof.</p>		<p>HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY INVENTORY</p> <p>2. NAME <u>BOHEMIA</u></p> <p>DATE OR PERIOD <u>c. 1743</u></p> <p>STYLE <u>GEORGIAN</u></p> <p>ARCHITECT _____</p> <p>BUILDER _____</p> <p>3. FOR LIBRARY OF CONGRESS USE _____</p>	
<p>4. NOTABLE FEATURES, HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE AND DESCRIPTION</p> <p>OPEN TO PUBLIC <u>NO</u></p> <p><i>Two</i> BOHEMIA is probably one of the finest and most elegantly appointed Georgian houses in America. It is five bays long and <del>three</del> deep and has a hipped roof, with a projecting central pedimented gable pavilion. The first storey front of the house is all-header bond, the second storey is English bond, while the sides <del>are</del> are constructed in common bond. This is a very unusual combination of bonds. There is a five string belt course across the front of the house and a watertable of simple sloping brick. The first storey windows are all 9/9 on S. + while those on the second storey are 6/9 on S. + 8/8 on N. There is a simple molded wooden cornice all around the roof line. The central bay of the house, terminating in a pediment, projects slightly forward. The door is simple and has separated sidelights. The second storey central window is round headed and breaks through the molding of the roof line into the pediment. It too has separate sidelights. The pediment itself has an oculus window molded and surrounded at the four compass points with wooden keystone ornaments. All the windows and doors in the house have flat brick arches with the bricks glazed cream color with central double keystones of rubbed deep orange brick. The effect is very striking. There are many dark glazed headers through the walls. The scale of the house appears rather diminutive since it sits very close to the ground and hardly any foundation is visible. There are two huge chimneys within the walls of the house. The <del>west</del> <sup>west</sup> end wall of the house has a patterned diamond glazed into the brickwork. There are also the remains of an old brick wall which connected with a long-vanished wing. (OVER)</p>			
<p>5. PHYSICAL CONDITION OF STRUCTURE      Endangered      Interior      Exterior</p>			
<p>6. LOCATION MAP (Plan Optional)</p> <p>7. PHOTOGRAPH</p> <p>6 b&amp;w neg &amp; prints</p>			
<p>8. PUBLISHED SOURCES (Author, Title, Pages) INTERVIEWS, RECORDS, PHOTOS, ETC.</p> <p><u>Forman, Early Manor &amp; Plantation... 1934,</u> <u>p 235, 239</u> <u>Maryland, A Guide to the Old Line State</u> <u>(Oxford - 1940), p. 363, known as "Little Bohemia"</u></p>		<p>9. NAME, ADDRESS AND TITLE OF RECORDER</p> <p><u>Paul Alan Brinkman</u> <u>15 December 1967</u></p> <p>DATE OF RECORD _____</p>	

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION AND PHOTOGRAPHS MAY BE ADDED ON SHEET OF SAME SIZE

North facade is laid in Flemish bond w/ glazed headers

The interiors of BOHEMIA are extraordinary. Rumor and tradition state that an apprentice plasterworker came from France to execute the lovely, rococo decoration which fills the house. The main stairhall has a flying Chinese Chippendale staircase. This hall ceiling has a plaster bird and wreath of leaves centered to act as a drop for a chandelier. All the ceilings have delicate rococo plaster decorations. One small room has a plaster handkerchief vaulted ceiling. - This is probably one of the first examples of a Gothic revival mode to appear in an American building. Many of the rooms also have wall panels with plasterwork decorations. All the mantels are superbly carved. They have broken pedimented tops and side consoles. The doors and windows have dog ear moldings.

The interior work at BOHEMIA was definitely executed by a professional. It is very advanced for its date in America and is in keeping with the best of work in Britain and on the continent. This house, interiorly and exteriorly is unique and deserves much further study.



CE-32 Bohemia

4/23/70 MOB



#27

CE-32 *Belierona* de'ant. 1900 <sup>0/5</sup> ~~1900~~ -